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[illegible]

To frown for thee or smile.

A few brief months or years,
Too brief, O soul, for tears,
Then to thy resting-place

O wherefore art thou stirred
With weak and idle rage

Like to a captured bird :
Be still, poor soul, be still !
He sees the sparrow's fall :
Thy voice he knoweth all !
Hush, hush, and wait his will.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL ON THE PRESS.
Report of the Press Fund Dinner from The Manchester Evening

The American Minister, who was very cordially received, said, in reply : His Eminence Cardinal Manning has alluded to me as the representative of a foreign power; and, although that is an expression which I am somewhat particularly inclined to resent, thinking that an American is, perhaps, so much a foreigner as the representatives of other nationalities—there can be no doubt that those gentlemen who are engaged in conflicting interest but the mutual amities of nations (I hear, hear). His Eminence has referred to me as representing a great space. I do not know whether he meant space, Cardinal, or truth. But I should be inclined to say that if he meant merely that I represented a physical space, located, in effect, that I represented nothing. Little things are the cause of much of imaginary memory than the enormous empire that have arisen and passed away since her fall [chairs]; and when, in the States of America, I think I am not overstepping the bounds of modesty when I say that I represent also a great and beneficent idea—an idea which is making itself more and more felt in the politics and the very life of the world. But, as I have said to you, often and cuttily manly; but it will not always be so.

I have reached that period of life when almost every man becomes, more or less, *laudator temporis acti*, and when, if he is not a party, he is, to conceive or express a considerable respect for the opinion of that Council of Placays whom he particularly lampooned in the hot days of his youth. [Cheers.]

degeneracy of apples [laughter]—that the modern apples had not the flavor and the manner, and

numbered in his youth. [Laughter.] But I think something in which even those who are personally interested would find it improved, and that is the press. [Cheers.] It is certainly a long stride from *The Gleaner* Street Journal—may I say Bucknary's picture of the pressman, which is one of the greatest old-to-a-table as this, and to a prosperity of the press which indicates a higher civilization than we have seen in any noble manner in which it is used. [Cheers.] The great danger which thoughtful men have always feared from the press was the danger of irresponsible journalism, and that is, I think, a very variable, been ill-used power. But I must say that in that respect the press has advanced in the right direction, and that such publicity as it gives is more than a compensation for the evils which have been since once protested against the "interviewer" who has certainly done what a few men of genius have done, and which, if it is added to a verb (I will not say whether or not it is a verb, but it is a language. [Laughter.] But I must acknowledge that he is frequently useful, and that he enables the public to get the facts of the interview, which they would otherwise be precluded. [Cheers.] And when I remember that the first great model interview was Lowell, I confess that my feelings are softened, and I am not sorry to see that which would otherwise be precluded. [Laughter.] I alluded a moment ago to what is sometimes a discreditable—or may become a very discreditable and dangerous—quality of the press, and that is the tendency to invade the privacy of life [cheers], and which, if it justified all that has been feared of it, would be as invasive in a much more right direction than that which has been feared. [Laughter.] When we consider—as I think all thoughtful men should consider—that, I will not say the majority, but the great mass of the press is composed of responsibilities are external to them, and that Mrs. Grundy, in short, is a large part of their law, I think we can see how in this direction the press may be highly useful in the pursuit of purity of life and a high code of public morals.

to deal with the writer of a letter of admiration which also discloses self-complacency or very gross

a shape in which you cannot deal with it without the aid of a pen. I am not about telling the writer more or less directly that his many years' experience of life before he meddles with such matters at all. An enthusiastic young man, who has written the letter in a few pages long, which is, in fact, a request for a solution of the whole problem of the universe. There are the letters that come with books, pamphlets, and the like, and some of them designed but deliberately planned traps, and others traps in which the snare is not intended. The writer of these paragraphs is not a letter from abroad, but a letter from a letter from abroad, asking private questions such as the "number, names and sexes" of his family, and the price of a book that he brought up. The letter was so composed that it was impossible to answer it at all, without giving the writer much of the information he asked for. The same man, who has written the letter, would be glad to examine, with a request that he would reconcile the Divine Goodness with